

and so for the past seven seasons I have carefully lifted the forewing of every *janthe* I have seen, using an old bent setting needle kept specially for the purpose, and peered hopefully at the hindwing. On 16 July 2004, having examined 272 consecutive specimens, my first *janthe* of the season proved to be *janthina*. — P. D. M. COSTEN, La Broderie, La Claire Mare, St. Peters, Guernsey GY7 9QA (E-mail: pcosten@guernsey.net).

The Scarce Chocolate-tip *Clostera anachoreta* (D.& S.) (Lep.: Notodontidae) on Alderney

A female Scarce Chocolate-tip came to actinic light in a small garden in the centre of St. Anne on Alderney on the night of 14-15 May 2004. This is a species of moth new to Alderney, although known from Jersey where it has been recorded on several occasions (D.J. Wedd pers. comm.) and from the Cotentin peninsula, just nine miles away, where it is described as “rare: isolated individuals” (Quinette and Lepertel, 1992. *Les Macrolépidoptères du département de la Manche*).

A second specimen was taken by Graeme Neal, also at actinic light, on the night of 15-16 June 2004 in his garden which is about 250 metres from the site of the first capture. — P.D.M. COSTEN, La Broderie, La Claire Mare, St. Peters, Guernsey GY7 9QA. (E-mail: pcosten @guernsey.net)

The Splendid Brocade *Lacanobia splendens* (Hb.) (Lep.: Noctuidae) in Surrey in 2004

On 29 June 2004, I ran two traps at the Old Stores Meadows Reserve (my back garden) in Capel, Surrey (VC 17, O. S. grid reference TQ 176404). Amongst the 337 moths (of 99 species) captured was an unfamiliar species that I potted from a side wall on a check round at midnight. I retained the specimen alive in the fridge, and a week later was able to show it to two Surrey lepidopterists who did not recognise it, but thought that it might be an odd Bright-line Brown-eye *Lacanobia oleracea* (L.). To be fair to them, I did show it to them in rather poor light around a moth trap. On 15 July, I joined the Herts Moth Group trip to Broxbourne Wood, Hertfordshire and showed it to Colin Plant. Unfortunately, by this stage it had lost most of its scales and was in a rather sorry state. Nevertheless, Colin provisionally identified it as a male Splendid Brocade *L. splendens* (Hb.) – confirming this the next day after comparing it with European specimens in his collection.

The Splendid Brocade *Lacanobia splendens* was added to the British fauna by Tim Peet (2003. *Atropos*, No. 20: 64) who reported a capture on Guernsey, Channel Islands on 17 July 2003 and referred to examples having been taken at Portland [Dorset] and Dungeness [East Kent] on the mainland, though without details. Later, Martin Cade (2004. *Atropos*, No. 22: 42 – 43) provided a list of all nine known mainland British records, from eight localities, along with three from the Isles of Scilly and four from the Channel Islands, as follows:

Mainland British Records: 14 June 2003: Dymchurch, Kent (J. Owen); 16 June 2003: Dymchurch, Kent (J. Owen); 24 June 2003: Lydd, Kent (K. Redshaw); 30 June 2003: Wyke Regis, Dorset (D. Foot); 1 July 2003: Portland Bill, Dorset (M. Cade & D. Walbridge); 1 July 2003: Puddletown, Dorset (H. Wood Homer); 5 July 2003: Totland, Isle of Wight (S. Knill-Jones); 5 July 2003: Swanage, Dorset (R. Cox); 7 July 2003: Boys Wood, Dorset (P. Davey). **Isles of Scilly:** 15, 25 & 29 July 2003: St. Mary's (M.A. Scott). **Channel Islands:** 5 July 2001: St. Peters, Guernsey (P. Costen); 17 July 2001: Icart Point, St Martins, Guernsey (T. Peet); 21 June 2003: (two), Surville, Jersey (R. Long); 5 July 2003: St. Peter Port, Guernsey (P. Costen).

I understand from Colin Plant, via Mark Tunmore, that further examples were captured at Maenporth, Cornwall, on 10 June by G. Davis and Durlston Country Park, Dorset, on 20 July by D. C. Brown. One wonders if this is a fresh immigration or whether these are the progeny of 2003 immigrants. The only other immigrant species in my own trap on the same night was a single Small Mottled Willow *Spodoptera exigua* (Hb.) The species is illustrated in colour in *Atropos* No. 22, Plate 3, Fig. 9.—DUNCAN FRASER, 123 The Street, Capel, Dorking RH5 5JX.

***Chloroclysta truncata* (Hufn.) (Lep.: Geometridae): the return of ab. *russata* Hb. to north-west Kent**

A further significant step in the decline of industrial melanism was heralded with the presence of a specimen of ab. *russata* Hb. of this species at my garden mv light on 20 September 2003. This is the brightest form of *truncata* to be found in southern Britain, characterised by its white, forewing central band, which contrasts with the dark markings. Though common in East Kent, here it has been replaced by melanistic forms. It follows the reappearance of ab. *griseovariegata* Mull. here in 1992, and which is slowly increasing in incidence.

In 2003, the population of *C. truncata* here is still dominated by the ab. *rufescens* Prout complex (mainly *fuscorufescens* Prout) and the melanic ab. *perfuscata* Haw.; the extreme melanic form *mixta* Prout and *nigerrima* Fuchs are all but eliminated from the region. However relative stability in polymorphism in *C. truncata* is still a long way off.—B. K. WEST, 36 Briar Koad, Dartford, Kent DA5 2HN.

The Scarce Tissue *Rheumaptera cervinalis* Scop. (Lep.: Geometridae) from two sites in Hertfordshire

Geescroft Wilderness, one of the long-running woodland light-traps on Rothamsted Farm (trap No. 22, O.S. Grid Ref.: TL 132128), recorded three specimens this year – on the nights of 15/16 and 16/17 April; and 16/17 May. It last occurred in this trap in 2000; and indeed, has significantly declined at this site since a peak in 1979, with several gaps of years with no records.

Harpenden IV (trap No. 594, O.S. Grid. Ref.: TL 153133), a relatively new Rothamsted trap site, recorded four specimens – one each on the nights of 6/7, 9/10, 10/11 and 13/14 May.